COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

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CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

To the CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman,Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for 1950.

Since I commenced work in your area in February of the year I have concentrated on getting to know the whole District and I hope in the future to be able to advise you on policy pertaining to health.

I have made some alteration in the form of report, keeping Statistics and Tables separate, in the hope that it will be more readable and hence more widely read.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

A. M. McCALL,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
16, Church Street,
CREWKERNE, Somerset.
October, 1950.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

POPULATION:

The Registrar-General gives the estimated population of Chard Rural District for the mid-year 1950 as 12,080, a slight increase on last year.

BIRTH RATE:

The Birth Rate of 17.30 is an improvement on last year and compares favourably with the figure of 15.8 for England and Wales. Details are shown in APPENDIX A, TABLE I.

DEATH RATE:

The chief causes of Death are shown in APPENDIX A, TABLE II.

Heart disease has again caused more deaths than any other disease. Taken together with diseases of the blood vessels it accounted for over one-third of all deaths.

Pneumonia which used to account for such a high proportion of deaths has now almost ceased to be a menace since penicillin and the sulphonamide groups of drugs have become widely used. This year there was only one death recorded as due to pneumonia.

INFANT MORTALITY:

Nine cases of death under one year occurred giving an Infantile mortality rate of 43.0. This compares very unfavourably with 29.8 for England Wales as a whole. There was one stillbirth.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

There were no cases of Maternal Mortality during the year under review.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

Your social services remained unchanged. Unemployment remained at a very low level throughout the year.

SECTION B.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:

Most of these services are organised by the County Council. They operated smoothly and efficiently.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS:

Clinics were held at Merriott every month. Dr. Amy Dauncey attended at each session. She advised mothers when they had any problems of feeding or health. No treatment is given at the welfare clinic but where necessary the child is referred to the private Practitioner. There has been a steady increase in the number of children attending each year. I am indebted to Miss Sellars, the Secretary, and the Committee for the excellent way in which the Clinic is organised.

During the summer an outing to Weymouth was very popular with the mothers and children. The Xmas party was a great success as usual. Details of Clinic attendances are shown in APPENDIX B, TABLE I.

Weighing clinics were held at Winsham and Tatworth. These were organised by the District Nurses. It is hoped to have a Doctor in attendance in the near future.

IMMUNISATION and VACCINATION:

Inoculation against Diphtheria was done by private practitioners, also by the doctors at the Welfare Clinics and at Schools. Owing to the presence of Infantile Paralysis this service was curtailed for four months. In the circumstances the numbers done were satisfactory.

Total Primary.	Reinforcements.
90	17

SECTION B. (Continued).

VACCINATIONS have fallen off since the National Health Service Act has ceased to make it compulsory. Details for the area are as follows:-

	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15 & over.	Total.
Primary ...	18	24	0	1	43
Reinforcements	1	0	2	7	10

HEALTH VISITING:

The Health Visitor appointed by the County visits all Tuberculosis patients and any referred to her by the various Clinics and Hospitals.

MATERNITY SERVICES:

Domiciliary cases are attended by the District Nurses and where necessary the private practitioner is called. In cases needing hospitalization the patients were removed to Taunton.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE:

In April of last year I took over all the Schools in the District and I visited each once in the second half of the year for routine inspection. Details of the number of children inspected will be seen in APPENDIX B, TABLE II.

There are 20 Schools in the area and details of water supply and sanitation are also shown in APPENDIX B, TABLE II.

DENTAL SERVICE:

I regret that there has been no improvement during the year and all schools in the area are still without a Dental Inspector.

OPHTHALMIC SERVICE:

All school children found at school to have a visual defect were referred to the County Oculist. Those needing treatment received it regularly. The supply of glasses became easier and delays less frequent.

HOME HELP SERVICE:

This service provided by the County Council and so useful in time of illness and confinement worked well and was greatly appreciated.

SECTION C. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES.

A summary of notifications will be found in APPENDIX C, TABLE I.

There was an epidemic of Measles, an increase in the notifications of Whooping Cough and three cases of Infantile Paralysis.

Again there was no case of Diphtheria reported, a great tribute to the immunisation done in recent years.

CHICKENPOX: This disease is no longer notifiable locally, the revocation of the Order made by the Council in 1923 having been approved by the Minister of Health on 16th April, 1951.

SECTION D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES:

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. The year was extremely wet and some flooding occurred.

WATER SUPPLIES. The quality of the water was satisfactory and so was the quantity with the exception of during the summer months temporary shortages at Merriott. A 30,000 gallons capacity storage tank has now been installed and this should help to maintain supplies in future.

Details of the routine examination of supplies are shown in APPENDIX D, TABLE I.

Details of water supplies from public mains are shown in APPENDIX D, TABLE II.

SECTION D (Continued).

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. Eight parishes have main drainage with efficient disposal systems. It is my opinion that when main water is laid on to a village the Ministry of Health should at the same time demand an efficient drainage system. It is obvious that when water becomes available that people are going to modernize their sanitation and immediately the Council are presented with the problem of dealing with the waste water and sewage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. Refuse collections were carried out in all parishes mostly fortnightly but a few monthly.

FACTORIES ACT. The statistics will be found in APPENDIX D, TABLE III.

(b) HOUSING:

Details will be found in APPENDIX D, TABLE IV. Although only one Demolition Order has been made many houses have been inspected and found beyond repair at reasonable cost. Owing to the extreme shortage of houses, the Council have been very reluctant to make Demolition Orders and where possible have extended the life of houses which cannot be repaired at reasonable cost by requesting the owner to carry out repairs to make the houses weather-proof and to sign undertakings to the effect that they will only be re-let with the Council's permission if they become vacant.

(c) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND ICE CREAM. The Regulations concerning the retailing and sampling of Milk and Ice Cream have been complied with. All premises have been inspected and registered if they conform to standard.

MEAT. There is no slaughterhouse in the area but attention was paid to the way in which meat is conveyed in the area. This was found to be satisfactory.

A. M. McCALL,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX A, TABLE I.

POPULATION, estimated mid-1950 ... ... 12,080.

BIRTHS:

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Live Births:				
Legitimate ...	106	96	202	
Illegitimate ...	4	3	7	
Total	110	99	209	17.30
Still-Births:				
Legitimate ...	-	1	1	
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	
Total	-	1	1	

APPENDIX A, TABLE II.

DEATHS:

All Causes:	85	74	159	13.41
Deaths of Infants under 1 year divided as follows:-			
Under 1 week ...	1	-	1
1 - 4 weeks ...	3	3	6
1 - 6 months ...	-	-	-
6 - 12 months ...	-	2	2
Total	4	5	9
Causes of Death:			
Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Cancer ...	15	9	24
Blood diseases ...	1	2	3
Diabetes ...	-	3	3
Intercranial Vascular Lesions	14	16	30
Heart disease	28	15	43
Other diseases of circulation	2	4	6
Influenza & Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	6	5	11
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Motor & Other accidents	3	-	3
All other causes ...	12	16	28
Total	85	74	159

APPENDIX B, TABLE I.

MERRIOTT CLINIC, 1950.

	Mothers.	Babies.	Toddlers.
Total attendances ...	357	167	326
No. of consultations with M.O: ...	155		
Immunisations	25		

APPENDIX B, TABLE II.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Parish.	No. of children examined.	Water in School.	Method of Sanitation.
Ashill	6	Yes	W.C.
Broadway	19	"	"
Buckland St. Mary ...	31	"	"
Chaffcombe	21	"	"
Chard Parish	27	"	"
Chillington	20	"	Bucket type.
Combe St. Nicholas ...	30	"	W.C.
Donyatt	12	"	Swan Peat.
Hinton St. George ...	25	"	W.C.
Ilminster (Without) ...	16	"	Communal trough water-borne.
Ilton	21	"	W.C.
Lopen	8	"	"
Merriott	34	"	"
Misterton	18	"	"
Seavington St. Michael ...	14	"	"
Shepton Beauchamp ...	24	"	"
Wambrook	12	No	Bucket type.
West Crewkerne ...	24	Yes	W.C.
Whitestaunton ...	8	"	"
Winsham	36	"	"
	406		

APPENDIX C, TABLE I.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.
Measles	134 ...	2
Scarlet Fever	18 ...	1
Diphtheria	- ...	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	- ...	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1 ...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	- ...	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	- ...	-
Dysentery	- ...	-
Whoopingcough	32 ...	1
Pneumonia	4 ...	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3 ...	3
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	- ...	-
Malaria	- ...	-
Small Pox	- ...	-
Other diseases notifiable locally, e.g. -		
Chickenpox	8 ...	-
Erysipelas	2 ...	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Cases notified.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Respiratory ...	5	2	7	1	1	2
Non-Respiratory ...	-	2	2	-	-	-
Total	5	4	9	1	1	2

APPENDIX D, TABLE I.

WATER SUPPLIES - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION BY COUNTY ANALYST.

	Where taken.	RESULT. Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.
REGIONAL SCHEME:		
2.2.50	Hare Lane, Broadway ...	0
27.4.50	Merriott	0
6.7.50	Donyatt, Pond Farm ...	0
6.7.50	Combe Beacon Reservoir ...	0
9.11.50	Donyatt Council Houses ...	0
BUCKLAND ST. MARY PUBLIC SUPPLY:		
2.2.50	Buckland School ...	0
3.8.50	Buckland St. Mary - a cottage	0
HEWISH PUBLIC SUPPLY:		
16.3.50	Council Houses, Hewish ...	0
3.8.50	" " " ...	13
COMBE ST. NICHOLAS PUBLIC SUPPLY:		
11.5.50	Stand tap on Green ...	0
14.9.50	" " " " ...	5
CHAFFCOMBE PUBLIC SUPPLY:		
27.4.50	C. R. Russell, Chaffcombe ...	10
3.8.50	Refuse Depot, Chaffcombe ...	0
TATWORTH, FORTON and WINSHAM SUPPLY:		
27.4.50	Winsham	0
6.7.50	Tatworth Low Level ...	0
6.7.50	Tatworth High Level ...	0
9.11.50	Winsham	5
SMALL & TIDMAS' SUPPLY, TATWORTH:		
3.8.50	House at Tatworth ...	7
HINTON ST. GEORGE: UNIVERSITY ESTATE'S SUPPLY:		
27.4.50	Farm at Hinton St. George ...	0
3.8.50	Post Office, Hinton St. George	10
MISTERTON SUPPLY: FROM CREWKERNE U.D.		
11.5.50	Opposite "The Globe" ...	0
9.11.50	Station Road Council houses ...	0
SUPPLY TO CLAPTON: FROM CREWKERNE U.D.		
22.6.50	Clapton School ...	3

TOTAL 23 SAMPLES.

APPENDIX D. TABLE II.

WATER SUPPLIES FROM MAINS.

Parish.	Total Popu-lation.	Direct to Houses. No. of Houses.	Direct to Houses. Popu-lation.	Standpipes. No. of Houses.	Standpipes. Popu-lation.
Ashill ...	419	123	397	1	3
Broadway ...	316	96	309	-	-
Buckland St. Mary ..	456	43	139	-	-
Chaffcombe ...	210	35	113	-	-
Chard Parish ...	1857	398	1283	12	40
+Chillington ...	161	17	55	-	-
Combe St. Nicholas ..	820	144	465	8	29
+Cricket St. Thomas ..	89	17	55	-	-
+Cudworth ...	74	8	26	-	-
+Dinnington ...	105	17	55	-	-
Donyatt ...	350	81	248	-	-
Dowlish Wake ...	239	44	146	18	66
+Hinton St. George ..	403	125	400	-	-
Ilminster (Without)..	803	138	445	-	-
Ilton ...	550	164	528	2	7
Kingstone) ...	130	9	31	-	-
+Allowenshay)		17	55	-	-
Knowle St. Giles ...	123	28	91	-	-
Lopen ...	219	37	119	1	4
Merriott ...	1300	309	999	-	-
Misterton ...	522	160	513	-	-
Seavington St. Mary) Seavington St. Michael)	341	89	287	-	-
Shepton Beauchamp	578	154	496	-	-
Stocklinch ...	123	26	85	--	-
+Wambrook ...	174	21	68	-	-
Wayford ...	285	16	51	-	-
West Crewkerne ...	459	28	90	11	37
Whitelackington ...	143	5	18	-	-
Whitestaunton ...	169	-	-	-	-
Winsham ...	662	101	329	-	-
Totals	12,080	2,450	7,896	53	186

+Estate supplies not owned by Local Authority.

APPENDIX D. TABLE III.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH:

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	12	15	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	19	21	-	-

Number in which defects were found: NIL.

OUTWORK:

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sections 110(1)(c)

168	making wearing apparel.
77	making lace.
11	Brush making.
Total 256	

APPENDIX D. TABLE IV.

HOUSING.

(a) Permanent Houses erected 1950:

(a) Local Authority: ...	46	
(b) Private Enterprise: ..	15	61

(b) Permanent Houses in course of erection at end of 1950:

(a) Local Authority: ...	30	
(b) Private Enterprise: ..	11	41

(c) Conversion to Flats or Dwellings:

(a) Local Authority: ...	-	
(b) Private Enterprise: ..	12	12

(d) Total Number of Post-War Houses completed by:-

(a) Local Authority: ...	196 +	
(b) Private Enterprise: ..	42	238

+including 30 temporary Bungalows, but excluding 76 Huts at disused Airfield.

(e) Houses occupied that have been condemned as totally unfit: 1

(f) Houses required:

(a) To replace those unfit ...		139
(b) To abate overcrowding		304
(c) Where conditions are unsatis-factory, e.g. two families living in same house:		
(d) Other applicants ...		
(e) Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year		443

(g) Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949:

(a) Applications received: ...	8
(b) No. of houses concerned: ...	9
(c) No. of schemes approved and submitted to Ministry of Health:	Nil.
(d) Grants approved ...	Nil.
(e) Applications disapproved ...	8

A. M. McCALL,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
16, Church Street,
CREWKERNE, Somerset.
October, 1950.